

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

*For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 29, 1995*

*Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202)224-5358*

BOSNIA

DOLE CONDEMNS SARAJEVO MASSACRE: WORLD WAITS FOR WEST TO RESPOND

Wolfeboro, NH -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the Bosnian Serb mortar attack on innocent civilians in Sarajevo, and the need for a robust Western response:

“Once again the world looks on in shock and disbelief as at least 35 innocent people have been massacred by a senseless Bosnian Serb mortar attack on a peaceful marketplace in the so-called UN safe area of Sarajevo. Now, the world waits for the West to respond. The senseless, murderous actions of the Bosnian Serb cowards who have again slaughtered innocent civilians must not be merely condemned -- they must be punished, not with belated pin pricks, but with a robust response. The latest attack underscores the fact that there is little ‘safe’ about the so-called U.N. protected ‘safe areas,’ and that there appears to be nothing ‘rapid’ or ‘reactive’ about the so-called Rapid Reaction Force, which has obviously done little to deter Bosnian Serb aggression.

“This is not the time for more unkept promises and empty threats from the United Nations and NATO. If the West can’t forcefully respond to this kind of atrocity, why should the Serbs ever expect to pay a price for their brutal hostility?

“This new massacre of innocent civilians is but the latest in a long, dismal line of such incidents -- Gorazde, Tuzla, Srebrenica, Banja Luka. All of these slaughters point in one irrefutable direction -- the time is long overdue to end the ineffective UN peace keeping mission, and to allow the Bosnians to exercise their fundamental right to self defense. The half steps -- and no steps -- engaged in by the UN, our NATO allies, and the Clinton Administration simply must stop. We can no longer draw lines in the sand and then step backward, or engage in endless and fruitless negotiations with a duplicitous enemy. If the tragic massacre in Sarajevo continues to go unpunished, Congress will be even more likely to override President Clinton’s veto of the bipartisan legislation to lift the unjust arms embargo on the independent nation of Bosnia.”

###